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Ag Digest

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

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The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address: www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm

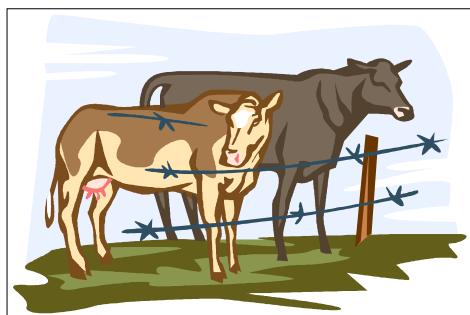
U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN SLIGHTLY

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.5 million head on October 1, 2005. The inventory was slightly below October 1, 2004 but up 3 percent from October 1, 2003. The inventory included 6.87 million steers and steer calves, up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 66 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.55 million head, down 11 percent from 2004.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.36 million, 1 percent below 2004 and 5 percent below 2003. Net placements were 2.30 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 565,000, 600-699 pounds were 505,000, 700-799 pounds were 550,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 735,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.82 million, 1 percent above 2004 but 11 percent below 2003.

Other disappearance totaled 57,000 during September, 7 percent below 2004 and 10 percent below 2003.



U.S. PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS ¹

Commodity	Unit	Oct 2004	Sepr 2005	Oct 2005
Dollars				
Wheat	Bu.	10.10	10.50	10.60
Corn	Bu.	6.75	7.02	7.08
All Milk, Sold to Plants ² ...	Cwt.	35.10	37.20	37.50
Wool	Lb.	1.57	1.72	1.73
Barley	Bu.	6.70	7.11	7.17
Oats	Bu.	3.94	4.17	4.21
Potatoes	Cwt.	15.20	15.80	15.90
Rye	Bu.	6.29	6.70	6.76
Soybeans	Bu.	15.90	17.00	17.10
Apples, For Fresh Use ³ ...	Lb.	.527	.551	.556
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	170.00	182.00	184.00
Calves	Cwt.	228.00	247.00	249.00
Hogs	Cwt.	105.00	113.00	114.00
Lambs	Cwt.	201.00	221.00	223.00
Sheep	Cwt.	83.80	89.10	89.80
Eggs	Doz.	1.69	1.77	1.79
Turkeys, Live	Lb.	1.020	1.070	1.080

¹ Parity prices are computed under the provisions of Title III, Subtitle a, Section 301 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended by the Agricultural Acts of 1948, 1949, and 1956.

² Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price.

³ Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, NY (apples only). Price at point of first sale for other states.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, OCTOBER, 2005

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Oct 2004	Sep 2005	Oct 2005 ¹	Oct 2004	Sep 2005	Oct 2005 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn.....	Bu.	2.06	2.29	2.20	2.14	1.90	1.74
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	3.34	3.28	3.42
Oats.....	Bu.	1.69	2.09	2.00	1.45	1.54	1.46
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.29	2.36	2.43
Hay, Dry All	Ton	121.00	129.00	132.00	92.80	99.00	97.70
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	140.00	145.00	154.00	100.00	107.00	106.00
Dry Other.....	Ton	110.00	112.00	124.00	73.80	74.60	76.50
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	.202	.275	.250	.261	.288	.286
Potatoes	Cwt.	7.20	⁶	⁶	4.70	6.16	5.62
Cows, Slaughter.....	Cwt.	48.10	48.90	47.10	49.80	49.80	47.70
Steers & Heifers.....	Cwt.	79.30	80.40	82.70	91.10	92.30	96.00
Calves	Cwt.	111.00	116.00	120.00	126.00	133.00	132.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	51.10	46.70	46.70	52.70	49.90	49.10
Sows.....	Cwt.	41.70	36.50	39.20	41.80	39.20	41.80
Eggs ³	Doz.	.320	.430	.330	.306	.465	.314
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	17.50	17.00	-	15.60	15.30	15.40
Manufactured Grade ...	Cwt.	15.40	14.40	-	14.90	14.60	14.70
All	Cwt.	17.50	17.00	17.60	15.60	15.30	15.40
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	1,600.00	-	1,800.00	1,640.00	-	1,870.00

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). ⁵ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. ⁶ Monthly price for potatoes discontinued in 2005.

OCTOBER FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DECREASED 7 POINTS FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in October, at 110, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 7 points (6.0 percent) from September. The Crop Index is down 11 points (9.8 percent) while the Livestock Index is unchanged. Producers received lower commodity prices for broilers, corn, eggs, and soybeans. Higher prices were received for cattle, sweet corn, wheat, and turkeys. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Decreased average marketings of dairy, sweet corn, grapes, and wheat offset increased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and cottonseed.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 4 points (3.5 percent) from October 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 115, decreased 6 points (5.0 percent) from last month and 3 points (2.5 percent) from October 2004.

ALL CROPS: The October index is 101, down 9.8 percent from September and 9.0 percent below October 2004. From September, index decreases for commercial vegetables and feed grains & hay more than offset the index increases for cotton and food grains.

Food Grains: The October index, at 115, is 3.6 percent above the previous month and 0.9 percent above a year ago. The October all wheat price, at \$3.54 per bushel, is up 19 cents from September and up 11 cents from October 2004.

Feed Grains & Hay: The October index is 83, down 12 percent from last month and 14 percent below a year ago. The corn price, at \$1.74 per bushel, is down 16 cents from last month and 40 cents below October 2004. The all hay price, at \$97.70 per ton, is down \$1.30 from September but up \$4.90 from last October.

Potatoes: The October index, at 95, is down 8.7 percent from last month but 6.7 percent above October 2004. The all potato price, at \$5.62 per cwt, is down 54 cents from September but up 92 cents from last October.

Fruits: The October index, at 151, is down 0.7 percent from September and 4.4 percent lower than a year ago. Price decreases for strawberries, grapes, and lemons more than offset a price increase for oranges.

Commercial Vegetables: The October index, at 114, is down 14 percent from last month and 31 percent below October 2004. Price decreases during October for snap beans and tomatoes more than offset a price increase for sweet corn.

Meat Animals: The October index, at 122, is up 2.5 percent last month and 3.4 percent higher than last year. The October hog price, at \$48.80 per cwt, is down 70 cents from September and \$3.40 lower than a year ago. The October beef cattle price of \$90.80 is up \$2.60 from last month and \$4.30 higher than October 2004.

Dairy Products: The October index, at 118, is up 0.9 percent from a month ago but 0.8 percent lower than October last year. The October all milk price of \$15.40 is up 10 cents from last month but down 20 cents from October 2004. The fluid grade milk price and the manufactured grade milk price is up 10 cents from the previous month.

Poultry & Eggs: The October index, at 125, is down 6.7 percent from September but 9.6 percent above a year ago. October market egg prices, at 31.4 cents per dozen, decreased 15.1 cents from September but 0.8 cent above October 2004. The October broiler price, at 43.0 cents per pound, was down 3.0 cents from September but 4.0 cents above a year ago. The October turkey price, averaging 52.9 cents per pound, is up 2.2 cents from the previous month and up 4.8 cents from a year earlier.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS **SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 3,822,000 bushels on September 30, 2005, compared to 3,578,000 bushels on September 30, 2004. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: Other Varieties 1,575,000; Golden Delicious with 1,542,000; and Gala 240,000.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 160,524,000 pounds on September 30, 2005, compared to 150,231,000 pounds on September 30, 2004. There were 896,000 pounds of pears stored in Pennsylvania cold storage facilities on September 30, 2005. On September 30, 2004 there were 1,189,000 pounds of pears in storage in Pennsylvania.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on September 30, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for pork and eggs.

Butter stocks were down 18 percent from last month, and down 8 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 5 percent from last month, and up 1 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 3 percent from last month and up 3 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 37 percent from last month, but up 23 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on September 30, 2005 were up slightly from the previous month, but down 6 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 4 percent from the previous month, but down 5 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 6 percent from last month and down 6 percent from September 30, 2004.

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Sep 30, 2004	Aug 31, 2005	Sep 30, 2005
	(000) Lbs.		
Butter	133,008	149,623	122,988
Cheese, Total Natural	790,717	804,139	765,938
Eggs, Frozen	18,720	19,920	19,184
Poultry, Total Frozen	1,306,180	1,232,943	1,233,460
Chicken	777,874	705,719	737,121
Turkeys	527,388	526,602	493,887
Fruits, Frozen	1,036,710	1,067,640	1,001,037
Fruit Juices, Frozen	1,920,185	1,647,179	1,488,741
Vegetables, Total Frozen	2,439,646	2,001,054	2,390,068
Potatoes, Total Frozen	1,178,648	1,121,332	1,179,459
Meats, Total Frozen	886,104	848,840	893,239
Beef, Total Frozen	457,244	410,592	443,741
Pork, Total Frozen	413,823	414,414	427,011

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, SEPTEMBER 2005

Variety	September 30, 2004					September 30, 2005				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York	4	4	190	67	265	0	0	3	0	36
Stayman.....	9	3	19	0	31	2	0	1	0	3
Rome	15	4	298	311	628	5	4	112	41	162
Red Delicious.....	287	181	130	0	598	125	42	61	4	232
Golden Delicious...	174	136	667	364	1,341	68	182	857	435	1,542
Gala	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	82	128	30	0	240
McIntosh	054	0	28	11	93	50	1	12	0	63
Fuji	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	1	0	2
Other ²	223	102	272	25	622	75	25	1,475	0	1,575
Total	766	430	1,604	778	3,578	408	382	2,552	480	3,822

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified. n/p (not published) due to too few reports or insignificant volumes stored, these are included in the 'other' variety category.

APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	September 30, 2004	August 31, 2005	September 30, 2005
PENNSYLVANIA	Lbs.		
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	100,223,000	13,020,000	124,320,000
Controlled Atmosphere	50,008,000	2,352,000	36,204,000
Total Apples	150,231,000	15,372,000	160,524,000
PEARS:			
Bartletts	27,000	3,500	56,000
Other Varieties	1,162,000	0	840,000
Total Pears	1,189,000	3,500	896,000
UNITED STATES			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	1,052,119,000	24,990,000	953,304,000
Controlled Atmosphere	1,953,788,000	91,812,000	1,899,647,000
Total Apples	3,005,907,000	116,802,000	2,852,951,000
PEARS:			
Bartletts	103,666,000	71,173,000	109,054,000
Other Varieties	394,052,000	1,408,000	330,578,000
Total Pears	497,718,000	73,581,000	439,632,000

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Sep 2004	Aug 2005	Sep 2005	Sep 2004	Aug 2005	Sep 2005
Lavers	Thous.	23.774	23.371	23.523	344.118	340.898	342.382
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,255	2,323	2,240	2,134	2,219	2,155
Eggs Produced	Million	536	543	527	7,344	7,565	7,379
Chick Hatch-Egg Type.....	Thous.	5,141	5,841	4,768	36.631	38.953	33.788
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type.....	Thous.	13,345	15,184	14,439	769.934	811.678	769.771
Poults Placed.....	Thous.	-	-	-	21.268	23.899	22.735

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during September 2005 totaled 527 million eggs, down 2 percent from the 536 million produced in September 2004. The total number of layers averaged 23.5 million during September, down 1 percent from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,240 eggs during the month, a decrease of 15 eggs from September 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched during September 2005 totaled 4.77 million, down 7 percent from the 5.14 million hatched the previous September. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 14.4 million during September 2005, up 8 percent from the 13.3 million hatched during the same month last year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.38 billion during September 2005, up slightly from last year. The total number of layers during September averaged 342 million, down 1 percent from the average number of layers during the same month last year. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,155 eggs, up 21 eggs from the same month last year.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during September totaled 33.8 million, down 8 percent from September 2004. Broiler-type hatch totaled 770 million, unchanged from the previous September. There were 22.7 million turkey poults placed in the United States during September 2005, up 7 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, SEP 2005

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Mil. Lbs.	99.2	3,933
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	73.8	2,778
	Mil. Lbs. Live	89.3	3,543
Calves	Thous. Hd.	12.5	61
	Mil. Lbs. Live	5.4	22
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	239.6	8,870
	Mil. Lbs. Live	58.6	2,349
Sheep & Lambs	Thous. Hd.	4.5	231
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.5	31

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in Pennsylvania during September 2005 totaled 99.2 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 3 percent from September 2004. Beef production, at 89.3 million pounds live weight, was up 8 percent from September 2004. Total head slaughtered was 73,800, up 3 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 59 pounds to 1,211 pounds. Veal production was 5.4 million pounds live weight, practically unchanged from a year ago. Calf slaughter, at 12,500 head, was down 15 percent, and average live weight increased 61 pounds to 429 pounds. Pork production, at 58.6 million pounds live weight, was down 2 percent from a year earlier. Total head slaughtered was 239,600, was down 1 percent from September of 2004. Average live weight was 244 pounds, down 3 pound compared to September of last year. Lamb and mutton production was 457,000 pounds live weight, down 5 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,500, down 21 percent from September of last year. The average live weight increased 16 pounds from September 2004 to 101 pounds.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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